GRUBER
FOUNDATION

Media Contact:
Alyson O'Mahoney
Robin Leedy & Associates
+1 (914) 241-0086 ext. 13
aomahoney@robinleedyassociates.com

Foundation Contact:
Bernetia Akin
The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation
+1 (340) 775-4430
media@gruberprizes.org

Online Newsroom: www.gruberprizes.org/Press.php
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GruberPrizes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOMESTIC COURTS' USE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW TO BE SUBJECT OF PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING GRUBER INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE PRIZE RECIPIENTS

****

Michael Kirby, John Dugard and Indian Law Resource Center to Receive Prestigious Justice Prize at George Washington University Law School
Symposium Will Follow Prize Ceremony

****

October 6, 2010, New York, NY – "Globalization: The Use of International Human Rights Law by Domestic Courts" will be discussed by a panel led by **Arthur Chaskalson**, retired Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa**.** Joining Justice Chaskalson on the panel will be 2010 Gruber Justice Prize recipients **Michael Kirby**, **John Dugard** and the **Indian Law Resource Center**, represented by Executive Director **Robert Coulter.** The symposium will immediately follow the presentation of the 2010 Gruber Justice Prize to the three recipients, who will share the $500,000 Prize. The ceremony and presentation, which will also be viewable via webcast, will be held at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., on October 11 at 10:30 a.m.

"This year's Justice Prize recipients have much to teach us about defining and defending the rights of groups that have systematically been denied even the most fundamental human rights by governmental and cultural institutions," said Param Cumaraswamy, Selection Advisory Board Member to, and 2005 Laureate of, the Justice Prize. "They teach us what it means to be courageous and determined when they successfully challenge deeply ingrained opinions and practices that have stood in the way of progress for historically oppressed populations. Not least of all, they teach us about compassion and the importance of not ever allowing the voiceless to go unheard."

Michael Kirby – A retired justice of Australia's highest court, he has been active in law reform and the promotion of human rights both in his own country and internationally. As chair of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists, and later as its president, as well as through organs of the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Australia, he has promoted the cause of international human rights and come to the defense of victims of unjust regimes. He has played a prominent role in the development of international human rights law, including, in particular, law relating to privacy, data security, bioethics and HIV/AIDS.

-more-

John Dugard – A lawyer, writer and teacher, he challenged the injustice of apartheid law in South Africa. Through his writings, he helped establish respect for human rights in South Africa. He participated in the constitutional negotiations that led to the adoption of a constitution based on human rights in post-apartheid South Africa. As a teacher, he was influential in the development of a cadre of young human rights lawyers who went on to represent victims of apartheid, challenge apartheid laws, and help assert the rule of law and respect for constitutionalism in post-apartheid South Africa.

Robert Coulter – The founder and executive director of the Indian Law Resource Center, he is an attorney with more than three decades of experience in Indian law and international human rights. He is a past chair of the American Bar Association Committee on Problems of the American Indian and a longtime member of the American Society of International Law. A graduate of Williams College and Columbia University Law School, he was elected to the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in 2004.

Indian Law Resource Center – is an organization that has used law to champion the interests of indigenous peoples. Through its work, the Center has exposed human rights violations against indigenous peoples in the Americas, among the most impoverished and vulnerable communities in the world. It has helped to develop skills within communities to enable them to know and claim their rights. In furtherance of this cause, the Center has engaged organs of the United Nations, and brought cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, using international law to assert claims of indigenous communities.

Arthur Chaskalson – the first President of South Africa's new Constitutional Court, he served as the Chief Justice of South Africa from November 2001 until his retirement in 2005. For 15 years he served as director of the Legal Resources Centre, a nonprofit organization that he helped establish for using law in pursuit of justice and human rights in South Africa. During that period he was leading counsel in several cases in which challenges were launched by the Legal Resources Centre against the implementation of apartheid laws. He was co-recipient in 2004 of the Gruber Justice Prize.

In addition to the shared cash award of $500,000, recipients receive a gold laureate pin and a citation, which reads:

The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation proudly presents the 2010 Justice Prize to Michael Kirby, John Dugard, and the Indian Law Resource Center, for contributions to international law and the advancement of human rights and rule of law.

Michael Kirby has defended victims of unjust regimes and promoted the cause of international human rights including, in particular, law relating to privacy, data security, bioethics, and HIV/AIDS. Active in law reform at home and abroad, his work has had an impact on the legal culture of many countries.

-more-

John Dugard, respected worldwide for his courage and scholarship, has championed the development of international human rights law. Having challenged the injustice of apartheid law from within South Africa, he participated in the constitutional negotiations leading to the adoption of their human rights–based constitution.

For over thirty years the Indian Law Resource Center has exposed human rights violations against indigenous peoples in the Americas, using international law to assert their claims. The Center was a leading participant in the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

* * *

Members of the committee that selected the 2010 Justice Prize recipients are:

Carmen Maria Argibay, Supreme Court of Argentina; **Arthur Chaskalson**, Constitutional Court of South Africa (Ret.); **Param Cumaraswamy**, Barrister-at-law, Inner Temple, London and Advocate and Solicitor, Kuala Lumpur; **Bernice Donald**, U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee; **Robert Kushen**, European Roma Rights Centre; **Ramon Mullerat**, KPMG Abogados, S.L.

Laureates of the Gruber Justice Prize:

- **2009: Bryan Stevenson**, advocate for marginalized inmates in the U.S. legal system, and the **European Roma Rights Centre**, proponent of Romani rights.
- **2008: Judge Thomas Buergenthal**, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and **Jerome J. Shestack**, former president of the American Bar Association, advocates for racial and gender equality and human rights.
- **2007: Justice Carmen Argibay** of Argentina, **Judge Carlos Cerda** of Chile, and **Mónica Feria** of Peru, for human rights work locally and internationally.
- **2006: Aharon Barak**, retired President of the Supreme Court of Israel, renowned for championing an activist judiciary and the rule of law and democracy.
- **2005:** Malaysian attorney **Dato' Param Cumaraswamy** who, at considerable risk to himself, stood up for the independence of the judiciary.
- **2004: Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson** and then-**Deputy Chief Justice Pius Langa**, for helping to establish South Africa's Constitution as a model for modern democratic societies.
- **2003: Madame Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella** and **Madame Justice Bertha Wilson** of Canada's Supreme Court, for upholding the rights of women and minorities.
- **2002: Fali Sam Nariman**, Member of the Parliament of India and Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court, for helping establish the rule of law in India.
- **2001: Anthony Gubbay**, former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe, and the **Law Society of Zimbabwe** for upholding the independence of the judiciary.

-more-

The Gruber Justice Prize is presented to individuals or organizations for contributions that have advanced the cause of justice as delivered through the legal system. The award is intended to acknowledge individual efforts, as well as to encourage further advancements in the field and progress toward bringing about a fundamentally just world.

The Gruber International Prize Program honors contemporary individuals in the fields of Cosmology, Genetics, Neuroscience, Justice and Women's Rights, whose groundbreaking work provides new models that inspire and enable fundamental shifts in knowledge and culture. The Selection Advisory Boards choose individuals whose contributions in their respective fields advance our knowledge, potentially have a profound impact on our lives, and, in the case of the Justice and Women's Rights Prizes, demonstrate courage and commitment in the face of significant obstacles.

The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation honors and encourages educational excellence, social justice and scientific achievements that better the human condition. For more information about Foundation guidelines and priorities, please visit www.gruberprizes.org.

For more information on the 2010 Gruber Prizes, email media@gruberprizes.org or contact Bernetia Akin of the Gruber Foundation at +1 340-775-4430. Media materials and additional background information on the Gruber Prizes can be found at **our online newsroom:** http://www.gruberprizes.org/Press.php.

-end-